

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00410 230809 Z

11

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 H-02 RSC-01 RSR-01 /026 W  
----- 008577

R 230730 Z MAY 73

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3410  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0410

STATE PASS COMMERCE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD, SA

SUBJECT: NEW SAUDI LABELING REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 89933; JIDDA 1839

1. CONGEN CONTACTED KADDURA, MANAGER, GENERAL TRADING COMPANY, AL- KHOBAR, AND SAG MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS AT DAMMAM.
2. SAG MINISTRY OF COMMERCE QUALITY CONTROL LABORATORY DIRECTOR EMPHASIZED THAT HE AND OTHER COLLEAGUES IN CHARGE OF QUALITY CONTROL LABS IN THE KINGDOM DECIDED AND LATER OBTAINED SAG MINISTER OF COMMERCE TENTATIVE APPROVAL ON TRIAL REPEAT TRIAL BASIS FOR MEASURING REACTIONS AND THEN CONSIDERING EITHER COMPLETE OR PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS. DIRECTOR EMPHASIZED THE NEW MEASURE IS MERELY MEANT TO WARN OFFD MERCHANTS THAT SAG COMMERCE MINISTRY WILL BE ENFORCING NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS IN THE FUTURE. DIRECTOR ADDED THAT LABELING IN ARABIC IS NOT REQUIRED INFORMATION ON LABEL. SAG COMMERCE MINISTRY MOST INTERESTED IN CANS OR PACKAGES CONTAINING LIQUID OR POWDERED MILK PRODUCTS BE PROPERLY MARKED AND CONTAIN QUANTITY OF INGREDIENTS, E. G. SOLIDS AND PERCENTAGE OF FAT; DATE OF PACKING; AND DATE OF EXPIRATION.

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3. DIRECTOR STATED THAT NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS PROMPTED BY INCREASINGLY LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOOD PRODUCTS IMPORTED FROM THE FAR EAST ARRIVING IN THE KINGDOM WITH LABELS WRITTEN IN LANGUAGES UNKNOWN TO SAG OFFICIALS.

4. LABELING REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO IMPORTERS OF AMERICAN FOOD PRODUCTS AS WELL AS OTHERS IN ORDER SHOW SAG IMPARTIALITY AND SECONDLY TO ALLOW THE SAG TO BE FREE TO ACT ON THIS SUBJECT AT ANY FUTURE DATE. DIRECTOR HINTED THAT THE SAR MINISTRY OF COMMERCE MAY NEVER ENFORCE THE NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

5. POUCHING COPY OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF LABELING REQUIREMENTS.

6. COMMENT: IF INDEED REQUIREMENTS ARE TRIAL BALLOON, WE THINK AFFECTED TRADE ASSOCIATION AND/ OR EMBASSY MIGHT WANT CALL ATTENTION TO OBJECTIONABLE FEATURES NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS.  
BAHTI

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**TAGS:** ETRD, SA  
**To:** BEIRUT  
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